



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of:

SCHRECK et al.

Serial No.: 09/973,791

Filed: 10/09/2001

Atty. Docket No.: 3123-384

For: "METHOD AND APPARATUS
FOR PROVIDING A USER
SELECTABLE START-UP
CURRENT IN A DISK DRIVE"

Mail Stop AF

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Group Art Unit: 2837

Examiner: Smith, Tyrone W.

PETITION TO
WITHDRAW FINALITY
MPEP § 706.07(C)

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS
BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL
SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE
ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O.
BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, ON THIS 31st
DAY OF AUGUST, 2004.


Tejpal S. Hansra

Dear Sir:

Applicants hereby petition to withdraw the finality of the Office Action dated March 31, 2004 on the grounds that a claim can not be finally rejected if the Examiner has never stated *ANY* grounds for rejection of such claim. The facts are as follows:

1. In the Office Action of July 31, 2003 (Paper No. 5), the Examiner failed to state any grounds, whatsoever, for rejecting Claims 7 and 8. (The Examiner did include an *objection* to Claim 7, which Applicants addressed, but did not state grounds for his *rejection* of Claim 7. No grounds were stated for the Examiner's rejection of Claim 8). There was no indication of whether Claims 7 and 8 were rejected on the basis of 35 U.S.C. 102, 103, 112 or any other basis.

Furthermore, there was no indication of which, if any, references were being applied against Claims 7 and 8.

2. In the Amendment filed December 1, 2003, Applicants expressly pointed out to the Examiner that he had failed to address Claims 7 and 8 in the “Detailed Action”, and thus had failed to provide a *prima facie* case for rejection of Claims 7 and 8. Applicants noted that, because of this deficiency of the Office Action, Applicants could not respond to the rejection of Claims 7 and 8.

3. In the current “Final” Office action, the Examiner (once again) has failed to state any grounds for his rejection of Claims 7 and 8. Specifically, section 2 of the “Detailed Action” of the current Office Action asserts grounds for rejection of Claims 1, 2, 6, 9-12 and 15-17; section 3 asserts grounds for rejection of Claims 18-29 and 31-35; and, section 4 asserts grounds for rejection of Claims 3-5 and 13-14. There was no indication of whether Claims 7 and 8 were rejected on the basis of 35 U.S.C. 102, 103, 112 or any other basis. Furthermore, there was no indication of which, if any, references were being applied against Claims 7 and 8.

In view of the above, the Examiner has failed “[i]n making such final rejection . . . [to] repeat or state all grounds of rejection then considered applicable to the claims in the application, clearly stating the reasons in support thereof” as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.113.

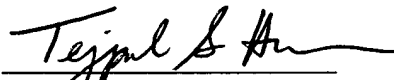
Because Applicants have not been informed whether Claims 7 and 8 are considered anticipated or obvious (or are rejected on some other basis) and because Applicants have not been told which, if any, references are being applied against Claims 7 and 8, Applicants have

been unable to even consider the Examiner's rejection, much less formulate an appropriate response. Accordingly, it is believed improper to issue a *final* rejection of Claims 7 and 8 when the Examiner has not yet even stated a proper (*prima facie*) *non-final* rejection.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the finality of the Office Action of March 31, 2004.

Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2198 for any fees associated with the filing of this paper.

Respectfully submitted,



Tejpal S. Hansra
Registration No. 38,172
Hansra Patent Services
4525 Glen Meadows Place
Bellingham, WA 98226
(360) 527-1400

Date: AUG. 31, 2004